

OTA Advisor E-Newsletter: Winter 2006

Welcome to the Massachusetts Office of Technical Assistance's (OTA) email newsletter, the OTA Advisor. This will provide information on major OTA initiatives, available tools, new publications, upcoming events, and other news of interest to Toxics Use Reduction Act (TURA) filers and other toxic chemical users. An electronic version of the OTA Advisor and other information on toxics use reduction in Massachusetts can be found on the OTA website at <http://www.mass.gov/envir/ota>. If you have suggestions on how we can make the OTA Advisor more useful, or to add or remove your name from the mailing list, please email your request to maota@state.ma.us. If you would like to express comments, views or ideas about OTA's services, please email director Paul Richard directly at paul.richard@state.ma.us.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Water Resource Management: Policies and Successful Strategies

The Massachusetts Executive Office of Environmental Affairs, the Office of Technical Assistance, Metropolitan Area Planning Council, and the I-495 Metrowest Corridor Partnership announce a Water Resource Management conference to be held on April 18th, 2006. This conference will provide the tools and strategies for both Industry and Municipalities to meet the challenge of finding additional waters.

Case studies are also being accepted on the following topics for technical presentations and discussions:

- Industry-Municipal coordination and collaboration
- Technologies for industries to achieve greater water efficiency
- Best Management Practices for industries
- Water reuse for commercial, retail, office, residential & recreational purposes
- Innovative approaches to finding "new" water
- Addressing peak demand
- Water offsets
- Water conservation
- Low impact development

For additional information or to answer questions please contact Denise Zambrowski at 617-626-1071.

US EPA 2006 EPCRA Workshops

The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) - Region 1 is hosting several half-day Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act (EPCRA) compliance assistance workshops. EPCRA requires facilities having listed chemicals, even in quantities as low as one pound, to submit annual chemical inventory reports for calendar year 2005 by March 1, 2006. This half-day workshop is free of charge. The Massachusetts dates, locations, and contact information are available on the EPA Region 1 website: <http://www.epa.gov/region1/enforcement/epcra/workshops/index.html>.

Green Chemistry and Pharmaceutical Wastes Conference

The Office of Technical Assistance will host a conference on February 21, 2006 for environmental officials on green chemistry and waste from pharmaceutical companies. Dr. Ted Schettler, science director for Physicians for Social Responsibility will explain the concerns raised by discharges of pharmaceutical wastes into the environment. Dr. John Warner, director of the Center for Green Chemistry at UMass-Lowell will explain the approach of green chemistry and how it might help address some of the risks of pharmaceutical discharges. The workshop will take place from 2:30 – 4:30 PM, in Room 2B, 100 Cambridge Street (Saltonstall Building), Boston, MA. If you are interested in attending please contact Rick Reibstein at 617-626-1062.

Marine Technology Workshop

The Office of Technical Assistance with the help of its contractor - Marine and Oceanographic Technology Network (MOTN), conducted research and collected data on the Marine Technology Industry. This information pertains to sub-sectors within the industry and regulatory issues that may affect the

industry. OTA is planning a focus group meeting for March 2006 for companies in the marine technology industry to discuss the results of this research effort. For more information, please contact Jim Cain at 617-626-1081.

Form S Workshops: E-Filing

OTA, along with the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection, will host several workshops in June 2006 that offer training to TURA filers that wish to file electronically. Dates and locations will be announced on our website in spring 2006.

IN THE NEWS:

OTA Hosts Design for the Environment (DfE) Workshop for the Medical Device Industry

The Massachusetts Executive Office of Environmental Affairs (EOEA) and the Office of Technical Assistance (OTA) convened a workshop on June 21, 2005 on the topic "The Business Case for Design for the Environment for Medical Device Manufacturers." The workshop was designed to enhance the competitiveness of medical device manufacturers in Massachusetts by assisting them in anticipating and proactively responding to marketplace pressures to improve the environmental attributes of products. Co-sponsors of the workshop included: MassMEDIC, the Greater Boston Chamber of Commerce, and the Associated Industries of Massachusetts (A.I.M.). Thirty individuals from twenty-four (24) companies, business organizations, academia and federal and state government participated in the workshop. The final report is available on the OTA website: http://www.mass.gov/envir/ota/events/ota_past_events.htm

TURA Legislation: Update

In January 2005, Senator Pamela Resor filed S. 536, which served as the starting point for deliberations on updating the TURA law. Senator Resor convened a working group made up of trade associations, industry representatives, environmental advocates, TURA program staff and others, who met a number of times during the spring and summer to discuss issues related to this complicated reform goal. After a number of productive meetings, the group came to a resolution addressing a number of the concerns. The bill was reported out of the Joint committee on Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture and assigned a new number Senate Bill 2250, An Act Relative to the Toxic Use Reduction Act.

Significant components of the new proposed legislation include:

- The Science Advisory Board (SAB) of the Toxic Use Reduction Institute (TURI) would have the ability to analyze the chemicals on the TURA list and recommend classification of the chemicals into three groups: "higher hazard", "lower hazard", and "unclassified" as well as the ability to recommend deletion of chemicals on the list.
- The threshold for "higher hazard" substances will be lowered from 10,000/25,000 pounds to 1,000 pounds, with reduced fees for "lower hazard" chemicals. There will also be enhanced outreach to those companies that use "higher hazard" chemicals, to encourage substitutions where appropriate and feasible.
- Companies will be allowed to do alternative resource conservation plans (energy, water, materials) or to implement Environmental Management Systems (EMSs) instead of reiterating the same toxics plans year after year.
- In addition, there are enhanced streamlined reporting sections and exemptions for certain classes of uses, for example if a chemical is naturally present in fuel oil.

Senate Bill 2250 represents a thoughtful and refocused look at Toxic Use Reduction. The bill will result in fewer burdens to most facilities, a continued reduction in toxic use, and a scientific process to identify chemicals and uses where alternatives would be appropriate. The proposed bill is currently being reviewed by the Senate committee on Ways and Means.

OTA & NEWMOA Testing P2 Software Tool

NEWMOA and the Massachusetts Office of Technical Assistance (OTA) for Toxics Use Reduction are collaborating to develop and pilot test a materials use and profitability software tool. The project builds upon the current application of environmental management accounting as a critical aspect of sustainable production and Pollution Prevention (P2). The software tool will aid businesses and other organizations in setting P2 priorities, identifying value-added opportunities for sustainable production, and implementing other materials and energy efficiency improvements. State and local environmental and technical assistance programs and private sector consultants will also benefit by having the tool to help their client companies identify P2 opportunities and quantify the benefits and costs. For more information contact: Terri Goldberg, NEWMOA (617) 367-8558 x302, or by email - tgoldberg@newmoa.org.

REMINDERS:

Chemical Security: Hazardous Waste Transportation Training Available

The US Department of Transportation (DOT) developed an interactive training module that is available on CD-Rom or can be downloaded on their website - http://hazmat.dot.gov/riskmgmt/hmt/hmt_security.htm. The training module instructs hazardous waste transportation officials on security awareness associated with the shipping of hazardous materials. Completion of this training module and the interactive test will meet the DOT's security awareness training requirement.

Deadline for 2005 TIER 2 Reports – March 1, 2006

If your facility is subject to Emergency Planning and Community Right To Know Act (EPCRA) reporting, you must file your TIER 2 Report by March 1, 2006. Reporting thresholds for Extremely Hazardous Substances (EHS) is the lesser of 500 pounds or threshold planning quantity. Thresholds for all other hazardous substances are 10,000 pounds for any material that has an MSDS. For additional information please contact the Massachusetts State Emergency Response Commission (SERC) at 508-820-2000.

School Mentoring Program

The Office of Technical Assistance (OTA) is offering an opportunity for businesses to partner with local schools and mentor them in addressing chemical management issues. As part of this effort, OTA seeks companies that are interested in becoming mentors. For more information, visit the OTA website http://www.mass.gov/envir/ota/programs/school_mentoring.htm. If you have questions or are interested in becoming a mentor please contact Susan Lanza at 617-626-1068.

OTA Master Service Agreements

The Office of Technical Assistance seeks to pre-qualify vendors through two master service agreements (MSAs). The first MSA – RFR ENV 05 OTA 07 – calls for contractors to develop, deliver, and evaluate commercial sector research through individual interviews, trade association interviews, focus group meetings, written surveys, telephone surveys, as well as internet and digital surveys. The second MSA – RFR ENV 05 OTA 08 – calls for researchers, including those from academia to conduct process prototype research through developing, delivering and evaluating research on strategies designed to reduce/eliminate pollution in manufacturing processes, while at the same time protecting or improving the manufacturing goal of that process. More information about these MSAs are available on the OTA website: http://www.mass.gov/envir/ota/programs/procurement_opps.htm

PRIOR EVENTS

Columbia Technology In Process

On January 23rd, the Office of Technical Assistance and Columbia Manufacturing, Inc. hosted a Technology in Process (TIP) seminar at the Westfield, MA facility. The main focus of the seminar was on Columbia's zero discharge wastewater treatment system that is part of their upgraded chrome metal plating line. The technology they selected was a CASTion vacuum distillation unit to treat the rinse water streams from the plating line. After an overview of the manufacturing process, the participants went on a

guided tour of the facility to help them gain a thorough understanding of the process and see how Columbia eliminated the discharge of 150,000 gallons of water per day. A case study on Columbia's success is available on the OTA website: http://www.mass.gov/envir/ota/publications/case_studies1.htm.

AlphaGary Corporation & The J.M. Perrone Company Recognized by the Executive Office of Environmental Affairs

The Executive Office of Environmental Affairs (EOEA) and the Office of Technical Assistance (OTA) honored both the AlphaGary Corporation and the J.M. Perrone Company at separate events at their respective facilities. AlphaGary, a manufacturer of wire and cable products, was honored for their implementation of alternatives to toxic materials in their product design which led to reductions in their lead use, among others. Perrone, a printer, switched to a computer-to-plate system which led to significant chemical reductions. For more information on their efforts please visit the case study page on the OTA website http://www.mass.gov/envir/ota/publications/case_studies1.htm. The event was attended by legislators and local officials, with remarks provided by EOEA Secretary, Stephen Pritchard.

OTA SECTOR BASED WORK

Medical Device Sector

OTA will soon begin Phase II of our medical device initiative. Phase II will result in guidance to the developing industry to incorporate Design for the Environment (DfE) principles to meet compliance obligations in the design and manufacturing of medical devices. OTA is planning to release the guidance document in the fall. For more information, please contact John Raschko at 617-626-1093.

Plastics/Rubber Sector

The Office of Technical Assistance created a new Guidance Document for manufacturers in the wire and cable industry. The guidance document, called: "Strategies for Streamlining Testing and Certification: Environmentally Friendly Wire and Cable" is available on the OTA website - http://www.mass.gov/envir/ota/publications/tech_reports.htm. For more information please contact Scott Fortier at 617-626-1090.

Barriers to TCE Reduction

The Office of Technical Assistance (OTA) is producing a guidance document based on a study of trichloroethylene (TCE) users in Massachusetts. The purpose of the study was to identify barriers to reducing the use of trichloroethylene (TCE) in cleaning operations at Massachusetts manufacturing facilities. 56 companies were contacted to collect information on the technical, economic, and regulatory issues associated with reducing TCE use at Massachusetts facilities. The guidance document identifies several barriers to reducing TCE and provides policy options and recommendations to promote further reductions of chlorinated solvent use in the Commonwealth. The guidance document also notes impacts from innovative technologies, alternative cleaning solutions and equipment, and the role that consultants, product vendors and assistance providers played in facilitating that change. For additional information please contact Rich Bizzozero at 617-626-1080.

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A publication of the Massachusetts Office of Technical Assistance for Toxics Use Reduction (OTA).

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